

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal Application No

PCT/US 98/16127

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 D06M15/356 D06M23/06 D06M15/03

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 D06M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 412 704 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 13 February 1991 cited in the application see page 3, line 36 - page 7, line 55 ---	1,18-22
A	WO 97 15275 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 1 May 1997 cited in the application see page 3, line 1 - line 30 ---	1,18-22
A	WO 97 34572 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 25 September 1997 cited in the application see page 3, line 9 - page 4, line 11 --- -/--	1,18-22

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 April 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/05/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat'l Application No

PCT/US 98/16127

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 96 15309 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 23 May 1996 see page 2, line 28 - page 10, line 33 see page 16, line 32 - page 21, line 42 -----</p>	1,18-22
A	<p>WO 96 15310 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 23 May 1996 see page 2, line 19 - page 12, line 3 see page 16, line 31 - page 21, line 42 -----</p>	1,18-22
A	<p>EP 0 292 909 A (COLGATE PALMOLIVE CO) 30 November 1988 see claims -----</p>	1,18-22
A	<p>DE 43 31 892 A (AMWAY CORP) 7 April 1994 see claims -----</p>	1,18-22
A	<p>US 5 336 419 A (BELFIORE KATHLEEN A ET AL) 9 August 1994 see claims -----</p>	1,18-22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/16127

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0412704 A	13-02-1991	AU 624014 B	28-05-1992
		AU 6015890 A	07-02-1991
		CA 2022467 A,C	08-02-1991
		CN 1049784 A	13-03-1991
		EP 0878184 A	18-11-1998
		JP 3128311 A	31-05-1991
		MX 173186 B	07-02-1994
		TR 25185 A	01-11-1992
		US 5618524 A	08-04-1997
		US 5658557 A	19-08-1997
WO 9715275 A	01-05-1997	AU 7455896 A	15-05-1997
		CN 1200664 A	02-12-1998
		EP 0861064 A	02-09-1998
		JP 10512294 T	24-11-1998
WO 9734572 A	25-09-1997	US 5665337 A	09-09-1997
WO 9615309 A	23-05-1996	BR 9509712 A	16-06-1998
		EP 0791097 A	27-08-1997
		JP 10508911 T	02-09-1998
		ZA 9509557 A	28-05-1996
WO 9615310 A	23-05-1996	BR 9509716 A	21-10-1997
		EP 0791096 A	27-08-1997
		JP 10508912 T	02-09-1998
		US 5798107 A	25-08-1998
		ZA 9509558 A	05-06-1996
EP 0292909 A	30-11-1988	US 4806254 A	21-02-1989
		CA 1322826 A	12-10-1993
		JP 1006174 A	10-01-1989
DE 4331892 A	07-04-1994	CA 2106173 A	24-03-1994
		GB 2270930 A,B	30-03-1994
		JP 6240575 A	30-08-1994
		US 5645751 A	08-07-1997
		AU 667233 B	14-03-1996
		AU 4736393 A	31-03-1994
US 5336419 A	09-08-1994	US 5064543 A	12-11-1991
		US 5062971 A	05-11-1991
		AU 8057691 A	31-12-1991
		CN 1059001 A	26-02-1992
		EP 0532671 A	24-03-1993
		WO 9119037 A	12-12-1991

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CM1718QF/JH	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 98/ 16127	International filing date (day/month/year) 04/08/1998	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☐ None of the figures.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 D06M15/356 D06M23/06 D06M15/03

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 April 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/05/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Herrmann, J

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	EP 0 292 909 A (COLGATE PALMOLIVE CO) 30 November 1988 see claims ----	1,18-22
A	DE 43 31 892 A (AMWAY CORP) 7 April 1994 see claims ----	1,18-22
A	US 5 336 419 A (BELFIORE KATHLEEN A ET AL) 9 August 1994 see claims -----	1,18-22

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0412704	A	13-02-1991	AU 624014 B	28-05-1992
			AU 6015890 A	07-02-1991
			CA 2022467 A,C	08-02-1991
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			EP 0878184 A	18-11-1998
			JP 3128311 A	31-05-1991
			MX 173186 B	07-02-1994
			TR 25185 A	01-11-1992
			US 5618524 A	08-04-1997
			US 5658557 A	19-08-1997
WO 9715275	A	01-05-1997	AU 7455896 A	15-05-1997
			CN 1200664 A	02-12-1998
			EP 0861064 A	02-09-1998
			JP 10512294 T	24-11-1998
WO 9734572	A	25-09-1997	US 5665337 A	09-09-1997
WO 9615309	A	23-05-1996	BR 9509712 A	16-06-1998
			EP 0791097 A	27-08-1997
			JP 10508911 T	02-09-1998
			ZA 9509557 A	28-05-1996
WO 9615310	A	23-05-1996	BR 9509716 A	21-10-1997
			EP 0791096 A	27-08-1997
			JP 10508912 T	02-09-1998
			US 5798107 A	25-08-1998
			ZA 9509558 A	05-06-1996
EP 0292909	A	30-11-1988	US 4806254 A	21-02-1989
			CA 1322826 A	12-10-1993
			JP 1006174 A	10-01-1989
DE 4331892	A	07-04-1994	CA 2106173 A	24-03-1994
			GB 2270930 A,B	30-03-1994
			JP 6240575 A	30-08-1994
			US 5645751 A	08-07-1997
			AU 667233 B	14-03-1996
			AU 4736393 A	31-03-1994
US 5336419	A	09-08-1994	US 5064543 A	12-11-1991
			US 5062971 A	05-11-1991
			AU 8057691 A	31-12-1991
			CN 1059001 A	26-02-1992
			EP 0532671 A	24-03-1993
			WO 9119037 A	12-12-1991

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 13 DEC 2000

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

15

Applicant's or agent's file reference CM1718QF/JH	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US98/16127	International filing date (day/month/year) 04/08/1998	Priority date (day/month/year) 04/08/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC D06M15/356		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 10 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☒ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 21/02/2000	Date of completion of this report 11.12.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Nissen, V Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8619 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/16127

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).):*

Description, pages:

1-88 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-25 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 - ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 - ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages:
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.:
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets:
5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US98/16127

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 2-3.

because:

- ☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
see separate sheet
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination report cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
- ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
- ☐ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☒ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/16127

2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with.
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:
- ☐ all parts.
- ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1, 4-25.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	18, 20-23
	No:	Claims	1, 4-5, 8-10, 19, 24
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	18, 20-23
	No:	Claims	6-7, 11-17, 25
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-25
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

Re Item VIII Certain observations on the international application

1. The subject matter of claim 1 is unclear (Art. 6 PCT) for the following reasons:
 - 1.1 It is not clear how it is to be determined in the silicone grafted adhesive polymer I whether monomer A (optionally) making up (part of) the backbone would have been free radically polymerisable as defined or not.
 - 1.2 It is not clear what is meant by the expression "reinforcing monomer" and to which extent the word "reinforcing" is intended to define or delimit the nature of monomer B. Moreover, as B can constitute 100% of the polymeric backbone, it is not clear how and on what it can be "reinforcing" in the literal sense.
 - 1.3 As the definition of monomer C falls within the definition of monomer B (both capable of being macromers), it is not clear to what extent these constituents are meant to be different in nature. In the description [page 8, 1st §] it is, however, stated that B does not contain silicone. This feature is not present in the claim.
 - 1.4 The term "lower" used for defining moiety R when being an alkyl is indefinite (PCT Guidelines III-4.5). Moreover, it is not clear if it relates only to R being alkyl or also when R is aryl or alkoxy.
 - 1.5 It is, furthermore, stated that R can be hydrogen. It is not clear how this can be the case in an aqueous environment. In any event it is not clear how it can be seen on the final polymer whether or not R would have been hydrogen. This objection also applies to the silicon bound hydrogens defined in claim 4.
 - 1.6 The definition given of C constituting a certain percentage of the copolymer is unclear, as it is not defined whether the percentage relates to mass or molar values.
 - 1.7 Moreover, it appears from the description that C defines the silicone moieties which are grafted to the backbone comprising A and/or B "monomers" [The description page 8, 1st §]. This feature is not clear from the wording of claim 1

(Art. 6 and R. 6.3(a) PCT).

- 1.8 From page 9, 1st § of the description it is clear that the polymer I should phase-separate when dried. In so far this is not an inherent property of any polymer falling within the definition otherwise given in claim 1, this feature should also be stated in the claim.
2. Lack of clarity of claim 1 renders also the independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 referring to claim 1 as well as all claims dependent thereon unclear (Art. 6 PCT).
3. The features of claims 16 and 17 do not make sense unless the conditions of measurement (in particular the temperature) are specified (Art. 6 and R. 6.3(a) PCT).

Re Item III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Due to no response to the previous invitation to pay further fees (Form 405) a statement is only given in respect of independent claim 1 alternative I) and dependent claim 4 as well as independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 and dependent claims 5-17, 21- 23 and 25 as far as they relate to alternative I). Vide also below section IV.

Re Item IV Lack of unity of invention

1. The present invention relates to a composition suitable for reducing wrinkles comprising i) a polymer, ii) a water-solubilising agent, and iii) a liquid, aqueous carrier.
- 1.1 Aqueous compositions comprising polymeric components as well as solubilizing agents (surfactants) are very well known [vide e.g. D1 (EP 412 704) claims 1 and 6]. It should be noted that the claim to the composition is not considered to be limited by the intended use of the composition as a anti-wrinkle means (PCT Guidelines III-4.8). If such limitation is intended it must be in terms of a use-claim.

- 1.2 According to present claim 1 the component i) can be one of three alternative polymers [I), II) and III)].

In so far the definitions of the polymers can be understood (cf. section "further comments" below); alternative I) relates to a silicon grafted adhesive copolymer, alternative II) relates to a (co)polymer composed of any hydrophilic and/or hydrophobic monomers and alternative III) relates to an adhesive block copolymer comprising certain silicon moieties.

- 1.3 It is a common feature of all three alternatives that they are polymers obtainable by free radical polymerisation. Furthermore, alternatives I) and III) are both adhesives and involve silicon and when I) or II) is used, less than 5% of surfactant ii) is to be used. Otherwise no common features of the 3 alternatives are apparent from the claim.
- 1.4 However, also compositions comprising adhesive silicon containing copolymer and less than 5% surfactant are known [vide e.g. D3, claims 1 and 9].
- 1.5 Accordingly, and contrary to the provisions of Art. 3(4)(iii) and R. 13 PCT, no common novel and inventive link can be found between the three alternatives in claim 1 which thus are considered as representing separate inventions.
- 1.6 The inventions identified could be grouped as follows:

- I: Independent claim 1 alternative I) and dependent claim 4 as well as independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 and dependent claims 5-17, 21- 23 and 25 as far as they relate to alternative I),
- II: Independent claim 1 alternative II) and dependent claims 2 and 3 as well as independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 and dependent claims 5- 17, 21-23 and 25 as far as they relate to alternative II),
- III: Independent claim 1 alternative III) as well as independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 and dependent claims 5-17, 21-23 and 25 as far as they relate to alternative III).

2. The above mentioned objection on lack of unity is not to be considered exhaustive for the subject matter of the present application. Vide below section V, regarding further lack of novelty/inventive step.

Re Item V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Cf. above sections III and IV a statement is only given in respect of independent claim 1 alternative I) and dependent claim 4 as well as independent claims 18, 19, 20 and 24 and dependent claims 5-17, 21- 23 and 25 as far as they relate to alternative I).

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 412 704 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 13 February 1991 cited in the application

D2: WO 97 15275 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 1 May 1997 cited in the application

D3: WO 97 34572 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 25 September 1997 cited in the application

D4: WO 96 15309 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 23 May 1996

D5: WO 96 15310 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 23 May 1996

1. The present invention relates to a composition suitable for reducing wrinkles comprising i) a silicone grafted adhesive polymer I, ii) less than 5 weight-% water-soluble anionic and/or nonionic surfactant, and iii) a liquid, aqueous carrier. For the sake of good order the applicant is informed that the claim to the composition is not considered to be limited by the intended use of the composition as a anti-wrinkle means (PCT Guidelines III-4.8).
- 1.1 Compositions comprising 0.1-10% polymeric components falling within the definition of silicone grafted adhesive polymer I in e.g. 10-90% liquid carrier such as water, as well as 0.05-50% solubilizing agents (surfactants) are very well known in the art of hair conditioners [D1 the abstract; claim 1; page 8, lines 20-21 and page 9 line 24, vide also D2 page 11, line 13 ff. and D3 claim 1].

- 1.2 Accordingly the subject matter of product claims 1, 5 and 8-10 as well as method claim 19 is not considered novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).
- 1.3 D1 also discloses formulas falling within the definition given in claim 4, which accordingly lacks novelty (Art. 33(2) PCT) [page 5, line 50 - page 6, line 35, vide also D2 page 12 and D3 page 10].
- 1.3 It is also known to use the composition according to D1 as a hair spray, which implies the use of a spray dispenser. Accordingly also the subject matter of claim 24 is considered not novel (Art. 33(2) PCT).
2. D1 also discloses both anionic and nonionic surfactant which thus constitutes obvious choices for the skilled person looking for a solubilizing agent. In so far no particular effect is substantiated as being the consequence of using any particular surfactant such are found to be equally obvious. Accordingly the subject matter of claims 6 and 7 lacks an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).
- 2.1 Regarding the additives defined in claims 11-14, these appears to merely constitute known additives also for use in hair care products [vide e.g. D1 page 9, lines 15-18 + examples; D2 page 16, lines 24-38].
- 2.2 The properties defined in claims 15-17 appears to be within the normal ranges of various traditional hair care products and can thus not be seen as contributing to an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).
- 2.3 The droplet size defined in claim 25 appears to lie within the normal droplet size delivered from spray dispensers. Moreover, no particular effect can be attributed to the droplet size. Accordingly the subject matter of claim 25 lacks an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).
3. Regarding claims 18 and 20-23 essentially relating to the treatment of wrinkles on fabrics using compositions comprising polymer I, it appears that D5 or D4 (being the applicant's own applications) represent the closest prior art.
- 3.1 D5 discloses a wrinkle reducing composition comprising a combination of a

polymer and a silicon based active as well as surfactants in an aqueous liquid carrier [claims 1 and page 10, line 35].

- 3.2 The problem to be solved over the closest prior art would thus be to provide an alternative (combination of) active ingredients for use in the known wrinkle reducing methods.
- 3.3 The cited documents do not reveal the said combination of ingredients (i.e. the silicone grafted adhesive polymer I) for use in the treatment of wrinkles on fabrics, and they do not suggest or imply that the beneficial effects mentioned on page 2 of the application can be obtained thereby (no need for touch up ironing and less iron drag).
- 3.4 Accordingly an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT) can be acknowledged for the subject matter of claims 18 and 20-23 provided the subject matter is appropriately clarified in view of the objections raised under above section VIII.

Re Item VII Certain defects in the international application

1. The independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT, see also see the PCT Guidelines, III-2.3a).